UNITED NATIONS **A S**

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/50/1015
S/1996/613
1 August 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fiftieth session
Agenda item 55
QUESTION OF CYPRUS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-first year

Letter dated 29 July 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 29 July 1996 addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Osman Ertuğ, representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the fiftieth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 55, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hüseyin E. ÇELEM
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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ANNEX

Letter dated 29 July 1996 from Mr. Osman Ertuğ
addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letters dated 15 and 19 July 1996 addressed to you by the Greek Cypriot Chargé d'affaires at the United Nations, which contains allegations regarding "violations of the airspace of the Republic" (A/50/999-S/1996/554 dated 16 July 1996 and A/50/1007-S/1996/571 dated 19 July 1996, respectively).

I would like to recall that previous similar allegations on "airspace violations" were rejected in toto in my successive communications addressed to you, most recently in my letter dated 12 July 1996 (A/50/1010-S/1996/579, annex). Since the present Greek Cypriot charges are no different or credible than those previously made, they do not merit a detailed reply. I wish to reiterate briefly, however, that flights within the airspace of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus take place with the full knowledge and consent of the appropriate authorities of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus over which the usurper Greek Cypriot regime in the south has no jurisdiction or right of say whatsoever.

The aim of the Greek Cypriot administration in making these allegations is, as I have repeatedly pointed out, to uphold the myth that it has sovereignty over the whole island and to provide a smokescreen for its intensive militarization campaign in south Cyprus. As part of the implementation of the so-called "joint defence doctrine" with Greece, the Greek Cypriot side has recently stepped up its strategy of military escalation, thereby raising tensions in the island. Having held with Greece the provocative military exercises codenamed "Toxotis" (Bow) as recently as the previous month, the Greek Cypriot administration is now planning for another round of joint military exercises in the fall of 1996. It has been reported in the Greek Cypriot press of 23 July 1996 that, within this context, the Greek Cypriot administration will be staging joint manoeuvres codenamed "Nikiforos-96", which will coincide with the visit to south Cyprus of the Greek Prime Minister, Mr. Costas Simitis, who will be accompanied by the Greek Foreign and Defence Ministers, Messrs. Pangalos and Arsenis, respectively.

Furthermore, according to recent Greek Cypriot press reports, yet another shipment of military equipment containing 35 American-made M48A5 tanks, 15 Greek-made Leonidas armoured personnel carriers and other military hardware arrived on the island on 24 May 1996 from Greece. Further reports suggest that an additional 50 Russian-made T80Y tanks and 50 French-made AMX-30B2 main battle tanks donated by Greece will be arriving in southern Cyprus soon.

The Greek Cypriot side, which is currently spending in excess of $2 million a day on its rearmament campaign, is, in an incredible display of hypocrisy, calling for demilitarization. Such Byzantine tactics only serve to hamper the ongoing efforts to find a mutually acceptable solution to the Cyprus question as they further deepen the profound misgivings of the Turkish Cypriot side regarding Greek Cypriot intentions. It is clear that, if the conditions

necessary for a negotiated settlement of the Cyprus question are to be established, the Greek Cypriot side must be dissuaded from continuing this confrontational posture and persuaded to return to the negotiating table. I hope and trust that the international community will use its influence on the Greek Cypriot side in this respect, in the interest of a peaceful solution in Cyprus.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 55, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Osman ERTUĞ
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus